

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W

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R 101454Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4581

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0760

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR SP MO

SUBJ: MOROCCAN REACTION TO SPANISH REINFORCEMENT OF ENCLAVES'
GARRISONS

1. SUMMARY: GOM HAS PLAYED SPANISH DECISION TO REINFORCE GARRISONS OF CEUTA AND MELILLA ENCLAVES IN LOW KEY. SINCE RAISING ISSUE IN UN LAST MONTH, POLICY HAS BEEN TO WAIT AND ASSESS SPANISH REACTION. GOM'S FURTHER RESPONSE TO REINFORCEMENT OF GARRISONS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN MEANTIME, EDITORIALIZING HAS BEEN LEFT TO NON-OFFICIAL PRESS WHICH HAVE PLAYED UP ISSUE ON WHICH MANY MOROCCANS FEEL STRONGLY. END SUMMARY.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA REACTION TO SPANISH REINFORCEMENT OF CEUTA AND MELILLA HAS BEEN RESTRAINED. NEWS WAS GIVEN VIRTUALLY NO ATTENTION ON RADIO OR TELEVISION FEBRUARY 9, AND FRENCH-LANG-UAGE LE MATIN FEB 10 CONFINED ITSELF TO NOTING, ON PAGE ONE, THAT
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GARRISONS HAD BEEN REINFORCED, THAT THIS MOVE HAD BEEN TAKEN

FOLLOWING MOROCCO'S DEMARCHE IN UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE,
AND THAT GOVERNMENT WAS FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY.

3. FRENCH-LANGUAGE ISTIQLALI AND MOROCCAN TRADE UNION PAPERS
(L'OPINION AND MAGHREB INFORMATIONS) MUCH MORE INFLAMMATORY.
FORMER WONDERED WHAT GOM'S REACTION TO "THIS INTIMIDATION" WOULD
BE, AND BOTH PAPERS REFERRED TO DEPTH OF FEELING OF MOROCCAN
PUBLIC ON ISSUE. L'OPINION HOPED THAT, IF SPAIN MADE MOVE TO
DIVERT PUBLIC OPINION FROM ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS, IT WOULD CHOOSE
"OTHER, LESS COSTLY MEANS." MAGHREB INFORMATIONS SAID MOROCCO
SHOULD "ABANDON ANY ILLUSIONS" ABOUT REAL INTENTIONS OF SPAIN AND
ABOUT TRADITIONAL SPANISH ROLE AS FRIEND OF ARABS. ARABIC-
LANGUAGE PRESS APPEARING FEB 10 DID NOT COVER NEWS.

4. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN TIME FOR US TO GUAGE PRIVATE REACTION
OF GOM TO SPANISH REINFORCEMENT. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION, FONMIN
OFFICIAL SAID GOVERNMENT "HAD EXPECTED MOVE", BUT DID NOT
ELABORATE.

5. ON MORE GENERAL QUESTION OF ENCLAVES INITIATIVE, WE HAVE
DETECTED NO QUESTION IN MINDS OF MOROCCANS WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH
AS TO LEGITIMACY OF GOM CLAIM OR DESIRABILITY OF PUSHING IT AT
THIS TIME. PARALLEL TO SPAIN'S CLAIM TO GIBRALTAR IS FREQUENTLY
CITED. ON EXTENDED LENGTH OF SPANISH RULE AND FACT THAT POPULA-
TION OF ENCLAVES NOW PRIMARILY SPANISH, MOROCCANS POINT TO LONG-
TERM SPANISH POLICY OF EXPELLING MOROCCAN INHABITANTS. (FON-
MINISTRY WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIAL HANDLING MOROCCO'S UN CASE SAYS
EXPULSION ISSUE IS AMONG THOSE CURRENTLY BEING DOCUMENTED FOR
PRESENTATION IN DECOLONIZATION FORUM.) MOROCCANS ALSO NOTE THAT
WHILE SPANIARDS HAVE BEEN IN ENCLAVES FOR A LONG TIME, OCCUPATION
DATES FROM SAME PERIOD THAT OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA, NOW BEING
GRANTED INDEPENDENCE, WERE COLONIZED. ECONOMIC ASPECT ALSO
PLAYS SOME ROLE IN POPULAR ATTITUDES, ESPECIALLY IN NORTH. THERE
IS FEELING, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ECONOMIC WITHERING OF TANGIER IS
DIRECTLY RELATED TO COMMERCIAL AND TOURISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF
CEUTA.

6. COMMENT: IN BROADENING CLAIMS AGAINST SPANISH, GOM IS
MOVING WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION. POLICY CLEARLY HAS BEEN
TO RAISE ENCLAVES ISSUE PUBLICLY, BUT IN AS LOW KEY FASHION
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AS POSSIBLE, AND THEN TO SIT BACK AND ASSESS SPANISH REACTION.
THUS, AMBASSADOR SLAOU'S UN DEMARCHE WAS REPORTED FACTUALLY
IN SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS AND WITHOUT COMMENT OTHER THAN HEADLINES
INTRODUCING STORY. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS DID NOT RAISE MATTER
AGAIN UNTIL SPANISH REINFORCED CEUTA AND MELILLA GARRISONS, AND
AGAIN COVERAGE WAS REMARKABLY RESTRAINED. EDITORIALIZING HAS
SO FAR BEEN LEFT TO NON-OFFICIAL PAPERS.

7. NOW THAT SPANISH HAVE REACTED, TIME WILL TELL WHETHER GOM
WILL CHOOSE TO RESPOND OR TO LEAVE MATTERS AS THEY NOW STAND.
COON

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